



BILLING CODE: 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2018-0009]

**Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection;
Control of Chronic Wasting Disease**

ACTION: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations for the control of chronic wasting disease in farmed or captive cervid herds.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0009>.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2018-0009, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0009> or in our reading room, which

is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the regulations related to the control of chronic wasting disease in farmed or captive cervid herds, contact Dr. Randy Pritchard, Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services, VS, APHIS, 2150 Centre Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80526; (970) 494-7241. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Kimberly Hardy, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Control of Chronic Wasting Disease.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0189.

Type of Request: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: Under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is authorized, among other things, to protect the health of the United States' livestock and poultry populations by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of cervids (elk, deer, and moose) typified by chronic weight loss leading to death. The presence of CWD in cervids causes significant economic and market losses to U.S. producers. In an effort to control and limit the spread of this disease in the United States, APHIS created a cooperative, voluntary

Federal-State-private sector CWD Herd Certification Program designed to identify farmed or captive herds infected with CWD and provide for the management of these herds in a way that reduces the risk of spreading CWD. APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) manages the CWD Herd Certification Program.

Owners of farmed or captive elk, deer, and moose herds who choose to participate in the CWD Herd Certification Program would need to follow program requirements for animal identification, testing, herd management, and movement of animals into and from herds. The regulations for this program are located in 9 CFR part 55. Part 55 also contains the regulations that authorize the payment of indemnity for the voluntary depopulation of CWD-positive, CWD-exposed, or CWD-suspect captive cervids. APHIS also established requirements in 9 CFR part 81 for the interstate movement of elk, deer, and moose to prevent movement that could pose a risk of spreading CWD.

The CWD Herd Certification Program and the indemnity program entail the use of information collection activities such as VS appraisal and indemnity claim form; sample collections and laboratory submissions, testing, and reporting; VS State application for CWD Herd Certification Program approval, renewal, or reinstatement; application for enrollment in the CWD Herd Certification Program; memoranda of understanding between APHIS and participating States; herd or premises plans; annual reports; State reviews; epidemiological investigations and reporting of out-of-State traces to affected States; reports of cervid suspects, escapes, disappearances, and deaths; inspections and inventories; a letter to appeal suspension, cancellation, or change in status; farmed, captive, and wild cervid identification; interstate certificates of veterinary inspection; surveillance data; and recordkeeping.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.813 hours per response.

Respondents: State animal health officials, accredited veterinarians, laboratories, and businesses managing farmed, captive, or wild cervid herds.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 4,532.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 27.

Estimated annual number of responses: 123,397.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 347,163 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, on March 9, 2018.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator,

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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